coal, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended in 1993 for private participation in coal mining to the industries engaged in generation of power, washing of coal obtained from a mine or such other end use as the Central Government may, by notification, specify. Industries engaged in production of Iron and Steel were already eligible under the Act for captive coal mining. Production of Cement was added in this category in 1996. Considering the coal blocks allocated so far under the provision, 49 coal blocks stand allocated to various companies in the public and private sectors as on date.

Promoting coal sector in Madhya Pradesh

110. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to promote the coal sector in Madhya Pradesh with the help of State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL) : (a) and (b) Government is promoting coal sector in the whole of the country including Madhya Pradesh. Coal India Ltd. with its subsidiary companies under the administrative control of the Central Government, and Singareni Collieries Company Limited a joint venture company of Central Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, are the major coal producing agencies in the country. The companies both in private and public sectors engaged in manufacturing of Iron and Steel, generation of power and manufacturing of cement have also come forward in this connection for captive coal mining. The Central Government has also initiated a revised coal mining policy allowing State Government Undertakings to mine coal for commercial use.

Import of defective navigation equipment by O.F., Medak

111. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Ordnance Factory, Medak imported navigation equipments;

(b) if so, the details and cost thereof;

(c) whether C and AG *vide* his report No. 6 of 2003 has observed that these equipments were defective and were not verified and tested during the period of warranty;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the loss caused and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ordnance Factory Medak has so far imported 633 navigation equipments at a cost of Rs. 99.12 crore.

(c) The C and AG in his Report No. 6 of 2003 has observed that out of 220 sets imported during the years 1995 and 1996, 38 sets were found to be defective, out of which 13 could not be repaired during the warranty period.

(d) The defects in the 38 sets were noticed during field trials. As the supplier failed to respond to the request for rectification and there was emergent need to meet the supply schedule, the factory decided to take up the rectification on its own and repaired 22 sets. The supplier rectified 3 sets in March 1999 and subsequently refused to accept the responsibility of rectifying the remaining 13 sets at his cost on the plea that the factory had unsealed the equipment contrary to the contract conditions and that the warranty period had expired.

(e) The feasibility of repairing the balance 13 equipments by replacement of defective modules is being studied. The actual loss would be known after the cost of replacement/rectification is worked out.

Joint exercises between IAF and British Special Air Services

112. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Air Force is likely to have joint exercises with British Special Air Services;

(b) whether details in this regard have been finalised; and

(c) when these exercises are likely to be held?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not airse.

Establishment of Defence University in Haryana

113. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :